

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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R 161304Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7101

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

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SUBJECT: ISRAELI WASHINGTON-BASED PRESS ON
RABIN TALKS IN U.S.

1. ISRAELI WASHINGTON- BASED PRESS (JUNE 15 AND
16) REPORTS REFLECT UNCERTAINTY REGARDING PROSPECTS
OF ANOTHER INTERIM SETTLEMENT BETWEEN ISRAEL AND
EGYPT. PRESS STRESS THAT WHILE BOTH ISRAEL AND
EGYPT WILL PROBABLY MODERATE THE POSITIONS THEY
HELD BEFORE THE SUSPENSION OF TALKS IN MARCH, IT
IS NOT CERTAIN WHETHER THE REVISED POSITIONS WILL
BE SUFFICIENT TO CONCLUDE AN AGREEMENT.

2. DAVAR (BARNEA) REPORTS (JUN 16) THAT "IF THE
CONCEPT WHICH EMERGED IN THE RABIN TALKS IS ACCPETED,
THERE WOULD BE AN ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL OF 30-40 KMS,
AND EGYPT WOULD BE GIVEN A CORRIDOR TO THE OIL
FIELDS, WITH THE UN TAKING OVER THE PASSES. EGYPT
WOULD BE PERMITTED TO MAINTAIN A SYMBOLIC FORCE IN
PASSES... WHILE SMALL ISRAELI FORCES WOULD MAINTAIN
ISRAELI POSITIONS ON PASSES... AMERICANS THINK
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THEY WOULD BE ABLE TO OBTAIN EGYPT'S AGREEMENT

TO THAT PROPOSAL AS WELL AS EGYPT'S CONSENT TO AN AGREEMENT FOR A PERIOD OF THREE YEARS, WITH A POSSIBILITY OF EXTENDING IT TO FIVE YEARS..." BARNEA REPORTS ON "CLASHES" THAT TOOK PLACE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND US IN COURSE OF TALKS: "ONE OF CLASHES WAS ON LEAKAGES IN ISRAEL AND RABIN SAID THAT DETAILS OF TALKS WOULD NOT BE LEAKED IN ISRAEL. THE OTHER SUBJECT WAS QUESTION OF SUSPENSION OF ARM DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL: KISSINGER HINTED AT A CERTAI POINT THAT AS LONG AS... NEGOTIATIONS HAVE NOT BEEN CLARIFIED, THERE IS NO CHANCE OF A SETTLEMENT OF THIS QUESTION. ACCORDING TO ONE SOURCE THERE WAS AN ARGUMENT BETWEEN RABIN AND KISSINGER ON THIS POINT AND RABIN EVEN WARNED THAT HE WOULD BRING THE QUESTION BEFORE THE US PUBLIC..."

3. YEDIOT (JACOBSON) AND HAARETZ (MARGALIT) REPORT (JUN 16) THAT IN SUMMING-UP TALKS WITH SENIOR ISRAELI OFFICIALS IT BECAME CLEAR THAT "THERE IS 50 PERCENT CHANCE THAT AN INTERMIN SETTLEMENT WITH EGYPT WOULD BE REACHED. THE OFFICIALS SAID THAT IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO EVALUATE AT THE MOMENT WHICH OF THE ISRAELI PROPOSALS EGYPT WOULD BE ABLE TO ACCEPT... TO MAINTAIN A RADAR STATION AT UM HASHIVA, OR TO HOLD THE EASTERN SLOPES OF THE GIDI AND MITLE PASSES ANCHORED IN A 3-YEAR AGREEMENT... AT THE END OF THE VISIT ISRAELI SOURCES THINK THAT THERE HAS BEEN A CONSIDERABLE IMPROVEMENT IN THE JERUSALEM-WASHINGTON RELATIONS... FOR THE TIME BEING, RABIN HAS CHOSEN THE LINE OF MAXIMUM CAUTION... WHILE KISSINGER DEMONSTRATES MORE OPTIMISM, ALTHOUGH HIS REMARKS ARE ALSO QUALFIED..." MARGALIT ADDS THAT ISRAELIS EXPRESSED CERTAIN ENCOURAGEMENT AT THE FACT THAT "A CERTAIN CHANGE HAS TAKEN PLACE IN EGYPTIAN POSITION REGARDING THE DURATION OF THE AGREEMENT, BUT THAT CHANGE IS NOT REGARDED AS SUFFICIENT... IT IS ALSO LEARNT THAT RABIN TOLD US THAT, TO THE BEST OF HIS KNOWLEDGE, NO VESSEL CARRYING ISRAELI-GOUND CARGO IS SCHEDULED TO CROSS THE CANAL NOW..."

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4. HAARETZ (MRGALIT) REPORTS (JUN 15) DETAILS OF "WORKING DINNER WHICH FORD HAD WITH PM RABIN AT WHITE HOUSE ON WEDNESDAY WHEN THOSE PRESENT REACHED THE TOPIC OF GOLAN HEIGHTS IN THEIR CONVERSATION. ONE OF THE CONGRESSMEN, EXPRESSED HIMSELF THAT 'IF I WERE ANISRAELI, I WOULD DEMAND TO PLACE ON CRIMINAL TRIAL ANY PM WHO GAVE UP THE GOLAN HEIGHTS.' AT THIS POINT PRESIDENT FORD INTERVENED WITH THE

REMARK THAT NO ONE EXPECTED FROM ISRAEL TO ABANDON THE GOLAN HEIGHTS. A SHORT SILENCE PREVAILED AND FORD AND RABIN LOOKED AT KISSINGER FOR HIS REACTION. IT SEEMED TO MANY THAT HE WAS EMBARRASSED. LATER AN EFFORT WAS MADE TO PREVENT THIS DIALOGUE FROM LEAKING OUT. NON-OFFICIAL US SOURCES SAID ON FRIDAY TO HAARETZ REPORTER (MARGALIT) THAT EVEN IF FORD HAD SAID THE THINGS ATTRIBUTED TO HIM, THIS DID NOT RULE OUT US SUPPORT OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR A FURTHER INTERIM SETTLEMENT WITH SYRIA, THAT WOULD INCLUDE A PARTIAL WITHDRAWAL ON THE GOLAN-HEIGHTS. OBSERVERS IN WASHINGTON EXPRESSED OPINION THAT FORD'S REMARKS, WHICH WAS KEPT AS A SECRET, PROBABLY REFLECTS THE PRESIDENT'S TRUE OPINION REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE GOLAN HEIGHTS...."

5. MAARIV (SEGEV) QUOTES (JUN 16) US OFFICIALS AS SAYING THAT "RABIN MADE NO COMMITMENTS IN HIS TALKS AND SAID NOTHING THAT COULD BE INTERPRETED AS DEVIATION FROM THE INSTRUCTION HD HAD RECEIVED FROM THE GOVERNMENT. HE EMPHASIZED MANY TIMES THAT ALTHOUGH ISRAEL CONSIDERS AMERICAN INTERESTS, IT MUST BE FREE TO ADOPT DECISIONS ON FATEFUL SUBJECTS RELATING TO ITS SECURITY ONLY ACCORDING TO ITS OWN INTERESTS. US ALSO REFRAINED FROM MAKING ANY COMMITMENTS RE SIZE OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID TO ISRAEL..."

6. JERUSALEM POST (BLITZER) REPORTS (JUN 16) THAT FOLLOWING RABIN'S TALKS "BOTH AMERICAN AND ISRAELI OFFICIALS ARE BEING EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN THEIR PUBLIC STATEMENTS ABOUT THE TALKS. NEITHER SIDE WANTS TO REPEAT EXPERIENCE OF MARCH SHUTTLE..."
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ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES DISCUSSED IN TALKS, BLITZER WRITES THAT "ISRAEL IS STILL REFUSING TO EVACUATE EASTERN PORTION OF THE MITLE AND GIDI PASSES IN RETURN FOR WHAT IT STILL CONSIDERS TO BE LIMITED EGYPTIAN CONCESSIONS. EGYPT, ON OTHER HAND, IS SAID TO BE UNWILLING TO DISCUSS ANOTHER ACCORD, UNLESS ALL PASSES ARE RETURNED. KISSINGER IS LOOKING FOR A FORMULA THAT COULD BRIDGE THIS GAP. SOURCES HERE BELIEVE THAT IN EXCHANGE FOR A 3-YEAR UNEF DURATION, PLUS OTHER SYMBOLIC ELEMENTS OF NON-BELLIGERENCY, ISRAEL MAY BE PREPARED TO THINK OUT ITS FORCES ALONG PASSES BUT NOT TO WITHDRAW COMPLETELY. ISRAEL IS ALSO DETERMINED TO HOLD ON TO ITS RADAR EARLY-WARNING TOWER AT PASSES...."
VELIOTES

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